

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 were originally presented. Claims 1-14 were elected in response to a restriction requirement. Therefore, claims 15-28 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 stand rejected on prior art grounds. Claims 7 and 14 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 7 is amended herein so that it is presented in independent form with all of the features of previously presented claim 1. Claim 1 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 2-4 and 6 are amended so that they now depend from claim 7. Similarly, claim 14 is amended herein so that it is presented in independent form with all of the features of previously presented claim 8. Claim 8 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 9-11 and 13 are amended so that they now depend from claim 8.

It should be noted that the Applicants are not conceding in this application that originally presented claims 1 and 8, their respective dependent claims, are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-11, and 13-14, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct from the prior art of record

and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary. Please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Attorney's Deposit Account Number 09-0456.

Respectfully submitted,

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